

CLAIMS:

1. A box locating accessory (1, 12) comprising a body having a pair of flanges (3, 13) diverging at right angles to each other for operative cooperation with the corners of stacked boxes (9, 19) to hold them in generally vertical alignment, the accessory being characterised in that it has, in a generally central location between the ends of the body, at least one locating formation (4, 14) extending from the flanges in a plane generally at right angles to both flanges of the body with the locating formation being adapted to be accommodated between the top and bottom of a pair of vertically stacked boxes.
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2. A box locating accessory as claimed in claim 1 in which the locating formation is a flat tongue (4, 14) attached to the inside surface of the flanges and lying generally in a plane at right angles to the flanges.
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3. A box locating accessory as claimed in claim 2 in which the flat tongue is integral with the flanges.
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4. A box locating accessory as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the accessory has one or more attachment formations (7, 16) for cooperation with a strap for holding the accessory in its operative position in relation to one or more other accessories cooperating with juxtaposed boxes in the same layer of stacked boxes.
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5. A box locating accessory as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the attachment formations (7, 16) are selected from apertures through said plate and a retaining loop formation extending outwards from one or both of the flanges of the body, or both of such attachment formations.
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6. A box locating accessory as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the flanges have, on the outside surface thereof, transverse guiding ribs (17) located symmetrically about the centre of the length of the accessory and adapted for guiding an external strap relative to the accessory.
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7. A box locating accessory as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the inside surface of the flanges, at least on one side of the locating formation, is provided with one or more projections (11, 20) for operative engagement with the sides of a box to prevent slippage of the said inside surface relative to the box.
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8. A box locating accessory as claimed in claim 7 in which the projections assume the form of spikes extending in a diagonal direction relative to the angle between the flanges.
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9. A method of locating stacked boxes one relative to another comprising installing an accessory as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 at each of four corners of a stack of boxes with the locating formation of each accessory positioned between a super-jacent and sub-jacent box and tightening straps connecting the accessories to maintain them in position in the diagonal direction relative to each other.
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10. A method as claimed in claim 9 in which the straps extend either diagonally between diagonally opposite accessories or a strap encircles four accessories installed at the corners of two super-jacent layers of boxes.
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